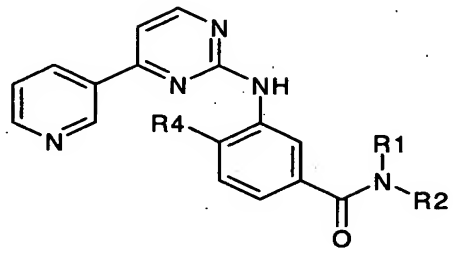
Please cancel Claim 1-4.

5. (currently amended) A compound of formula I ~~according to claim 1~~ wherein



(I)

R_1 represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy-lower alkyl, or benzyl;

R_2 represents ~~lower alkyl, optionally substituted by one radical R_3, by two phenyl groups, by two lower alkoxycarbonyl groups, by phenyl and lower alkoxycarbonyl, or by hydroxyphenyl and lower alkoxycarbonyl; cyclopentyl; benzcyclopentyl; cylcohexyl; pyrrolidinyl; piperidinyl; N-lower alkylpiperidinyl; N-benzylpiperidinyl; N-pyrimidinylpiperidinyl; morpholinyl; azepinyl; oxoazepinyl; phenyl; naphthalinyl; tetrahydronaphthalinyl; pyridyl; lower alkyl-pyridyl; quinolinyl; thienyl; lower alkoxycarbonylmethylthienyl; or~~ phenyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, trifluoro-lower alkyl, hydroxy-lower alkyl, amino-lower alkyl, lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, di-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, N-cyclohexyl-N-lower alkylamino-lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonylpiperidino-lower alkyl, N-lower alkylpiperazino-lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl-lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, trifluoro-lower alkoxy, 1H-imidazolyl-lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyloxy, benzoyloxy, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, lower alkylcarbamoyl, amino, lower alkanoylamino, benzoylamino, amino mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, by hydroxy-lower alkyl or by loweralkoxy-lower alkyl, 1H-imidazolyl, lower alkyl-1H-imidazolyl, carboxy-1H-imidazolyl, lower alkyl-estercarboxy-1H-imidazolyl, pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino, N-lower alkylpiperazino, morpholino, sulfamoyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, phenyl, pyridyl, halogenyl, or benzoyl; and

~~R_3 represents hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyloxy, benzoyloxy, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, phenylamino, N-lower alkyl-N-phenylamino, pyrrolidino, oxopyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, imidazolino, oxoimidazolino, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, phenyl, naphthalinyl, tetrahydronaphthalinyl, furyl, a mono- or bicyclic heteroaryl group comprising one or two nitrogen atoms, which heteroaryl group is unsubstituted or mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy, or phenyl substituted by one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl, trifluoro-lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl-lower alkyl,~~

~~hydroxy, lower alkoxy, trifluoro-lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyloxy, benzoyloxy, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, amino, lower alkanoylamino, benzoylamino, amino mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl, by hydroxy-lower alkyl or by loweralkoxy-lower alkyl, pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, piperazino, N-lower alkylpiperazino, N-lower alkoxycarbonylpiperazino, phenyl, pyridyl, 1H-imidazolyl, lower alkyl-1H-imidazolyl, sulfamoyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, halogenyl, or benzoyl; or wherein~~

~~R_1 and R_2 together represent alkylene with four or five carbon atoms, optionally mono- or disubstituted by phenyl, hydroxy, amino, benzoylamino, or piperidino; benzalkylene with four or five carbon atoms in the alkylene group; oxaalkylene with one oxygen and four carbon atoms; or azaalkylene with one nitrogen and four carbon atoms wherein nitrogen is unsubstituted or substituted by lower alkyl, phenyl-lower alkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl-lower alkyl, carbamoyl-lower alkyl, pyrrolidinocarbonyl-lower alkyl, morpholinocarbonyl-lower alkyl, cyclopentyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, trifluoromethylphenyl, pyridinyl; pyrimidinyl, or pyrazinyl;~~

R_4 represents hydrogen, lower alkyl or halo ~~or methyl~~;

~~and~~ or a N-oxide or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~of such a compound~~.

6. (currently Amended) A compound of formula I according to claim ~~1~~ 5wherein

R_1 represents hydrogen;

R_2 represents phenyl substituted by trifluoromethyl and optionally a further substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy-lower alkyl, lower alkylamino, hydroxy-lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, 1H-imidazolyl, lower alkyl-1H-imidazolyl, carbamoyl, lower alkylcarbamoyl, pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino, lower alkylpiperazino, morpholino, lower alkoxy, trifluoro-lower alkoxy, phenyl, pyridyl, and halogenyl;

R_4 represents methyl;

~~and~~ or a N-oxide or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~of such a compound~~.

7. (currently amended) A compound of formula I according to claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein

R_1 represents hydrogen;

R_2 represents phenyl substituted by 3-trifluoromethyl and optionally a further substituent selected from the group consisting of 1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl, methylamino, ethylamino, 2-hydroxy-1-propylamino, 2-hydroxy-2-propylamino, diethylamino, 1H-imidazolyl, 2- and 4-methyl-1H-imidazolyl, carbamoyl, methylcarbamoyl, pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino, 4-methylpiperazino, morpholino, methoxy, trifluoromethoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy, phenyl, 2-, 3- and 4-pyridyl, chloro, and fluoro;

R_4 represents methyl;

~~and~~ or a N-oxide or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~of such a compound~~.

8. (currently amended)The compound of formula I according to claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein

R_1 represents hydrogen;

R_2 represents 3-(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl;

R_4 represents methyl;

~~and~~ or a N-oxide or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~of such a compound~~.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein

R_1 is hydrogen;

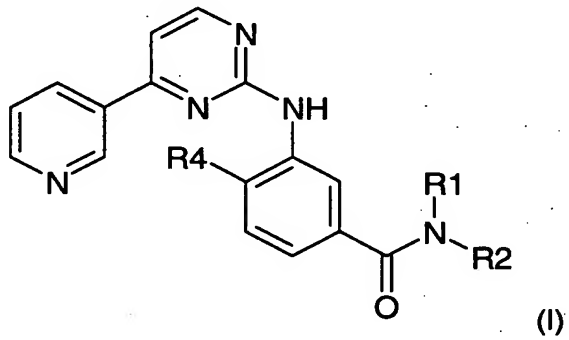
R_2 represents phenyl which is mono- or disubstituted by imidazol-lower alkoxy, lower alkyl amino, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy lower alkyl amino, bis-(lower alkoxy lower alkyl) amino, lower alkyl piperazinyl, piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, phenyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl which is unsubstituted or mono- or disubstituted by lower alkyl or N-lower alkyl carbamoyl;

R_4 is lower alkyl;

~~and~~ or a N-oxide or ~~a~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof ~~of such a compound~~.

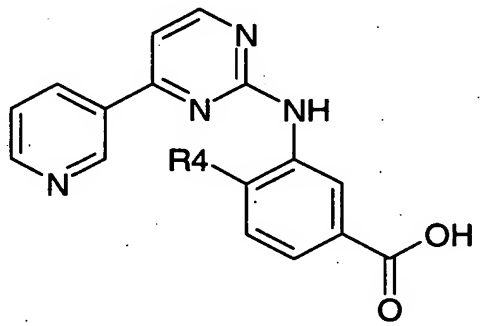
10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A process for the synthesis of a compound of the formula



(I)

or an N-oxide or a salt thereof, wherein the symbols R_1, R_2 and R_4 are as defined in claim 1, characterized in that a compound of formula II



(II)

wherein R_4 is as defined for a compound of formula I, ~~or a derivative thereof~~ wherein the carboxy group –COOH is in activated form, is reacted with an amine of the formula III

$$R_1\text{-NH-}R_2 \qquad \text{(III)}$$

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined for a compound of the formula I, optionally in the presence of a dehydrating agent and an inert base and/or a suitable catalyst, and optionally in the presence of an inert solvent;

where the above starting compounds II and III may also be present with functional groups in protected form if necessary and/or in the form of salts, provided a salt-forming group is present and the reaction in salt form is possible;

any protecting groups in a protected derivative of a compound of the formula I are removed;

and, if so desired, an obtainable compound of formula I is converted into another compound of formula I or a N-oxide thereof, a free compound of formula I is converted into a salt, an obtainable salt of a compound of formula I is converted into the free compound or another salt, and/or a mixture of isomeric compounds of formula I is separated into the individual isomers.

12. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 5 or a N-oxide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of ~~a disease which responds to an inhibition of protein kinase activity,~~ leukaemias which comprises administering a compound of formula I according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 5 or a N-oxide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (cancelled)

15. (new) 4-Methyl-3-[[4-(3-pyridinyl)-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]-*N*-[5-(4-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]benzamide or an N-oxide or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

16. (new) A compound of formula I according to claim 5 wherein

R_1 represents hydrogen;

R_2 represents phenyl substituted by 3-trifluoromethyl and a further substituent selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl-1H-imidazolyl and 4-methyl-1H-imidazolyl;

R_4 represents methyl;

or a N-oxide or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

17. (new) A compound of formula I according to claim 5 wherein

R_1 represents hydrogen;

R_2 represents phenyl substituted by 5-trifluoromethyl and optionally a further substituent selected from the group consisting of 2,4-dimethyl-1H-imidazolyl, 5-methyl-1H imidazolyl, 2-methoxymethylamino, propoxy, ethoxy, methylaminocarbonyl, benzoyl, 4-methoxy-2-methyl, acetylamino 2,4-dimethyl-1H-imidazolyl, acetic acid ethyl ester, piperidine carboxylic acid ethyl ester;

R_4 represents methyl;

or a N-oxide or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.